



# CHRISTMAS 2025

## VENITE ADORÉMUS - DÓMINUM -

*“And the Word  
was made Flesh  
and dwelt among us;  
and we saw His glory,  
the glory as it were  
of the only-begotten  
of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.”*

*St. Anthony of Padua  
Catholic Church*

Temperance, Michigan

## The Nativity of the Lord

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

## ST. ANTHONY'S DIRECTORY

**PASTOR** Father Robert Slaton frslaton.stanthony@gmail.com  
**Rectory** 734-854-1143 4605 St. Anthony Road, Temperance, MI 48182  
**Fax** 734-854-4622  
**Parish E-mail** stanthony@bex.net or stanthonytemperance@gmail.com  
**Web site:** stanthonytemperance.org

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 10:00am - 3:00pm; Friday: 10:00am - 1:00pm

## OFFICE STAFF:

**Parish Secretary:** 734-854-1143 stanthony@bex.net or stanthonytemperance@gmail.com  
**Grace Ledbetter, Business Office:** 734-854-1143 lumenchristimsd@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC:** Eric Hite 419-266-0571 ehite820@gmail.com

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE):

All Religious Ed. Classes for the Lumen Christi Family of Parishes will be held  
 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

For more information: 734-848-6125 ext. 6 faith.formation@stjosepherie.com

## Weekend Mass Schedule - Lumen Christi Parishes:

**Saturday** (Sunday Vigil): 4:00pm St. Anthony; 4:00pm - St. Joseph; 5:30pm: OL Mt. Carmel  
**Sunday:** 7:30am St. Joseph; 9:00am St. Anthony; 9:00am OL Mt. Carmel;  
 10:30am St. Joseph; 11:00am St. Anthony; 4:30pm St. Joseph; 7:00pm - OLMC

## Weekday Mass Schedule - Lumen Christi Parishes:

Monday: 9:00am - OL Mt. Carmel  
**Tuesday: 9:00am - St. Anthony;** 6:00pm - St. Joseph  
 Wednesday: 9:00am - OL Mt. Carmel  
**Thursday: 7:00pm - St. Anthony (NLM)**  
 Friday: 9:00am - St. Joseph  
**First Friday: 7:00pm - St. Anthony (NLM);**  
**First Saturday: 9:00am - St. Anthony (NLM)**

## Sacrament of Penance - Lumen Christi Parishes:

**Tuesday:** 5:00 - 6:00pm - St. Joseph **Wednesday:** 10:00am - 11:00am - OLMC  
**Thursday: 5:00 - 6:00pm - St. Anthony**  
**Saturday: 1:00-2:00pm - OLMC**

**First Friday: 10:00-11:00 am - St. Joseph; First Saturday: 10:00 - 11:00am - St. Anthony**

Prayer Blankets

Prayer Chain

Seven Sisters

## Apostolate

Sandy Maenle: 734-847-7813 Miriam Dressel: 734-888-1192 Cheryl Scott: 319-296-5864

## † Our Sacramental Policy †

Six-month Parish registration and participation are required for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

**Baptisms:** Arrangements must be made in advance and parents must attend a baptism class. The Church requires that at least one of the parents be a practicing Catholic, and the Godparents must be active, practicing, fully initiated Catholics at least 16 years of age. If two Godparents: must be 1 male & 1 female; if one Godparent: may be male or female.

**Marriage:** Arrangements must be made at least nine months in advance. Please call the rectory office. Officiate at the ceremony must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

## Christmas Blessings to All!

Many people come to St. Anthony Catholic Church to worship during the Christmas Season.

What a blessing to celebrate this holy day with the familiar faces of those who join us throughout the year, who have enriched our lives through Worship, Christian Charity, and self-giving love:

We Give Thanks to God for You!

In this past year, we have been blessed with new acquaintances, whether joining us at Holy Mass, or registering to become members of our family.

Or, maybe today is your first time at St. Anthony's.

To all of you we offer a sincere:

**"Hello and Welcome."**

Maybe you've been away for a while and have chosen this time to re-connect:

To you we offer a heartfelt,

**"Welcome Home!"**

Christmas Blessings



From Father Slaton  
 and the Staff of  
 St. Anthony Catholic Church

Grace  
 Eric  
 Michelle



Paul  
 Joe





There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.

We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.

Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their "blood." A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a "gotcha day," and it's marked joyously, like a birthday.

Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.

But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. It's not about who we look like, it's about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another.

So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our "gotcha day" — the day we received the gift of eternal family.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**All the Recipients of the Prayer Blankets**

**All those in Jails or Prisons**

Norb Abel  
Easton Aitson  
Baby Girl  
Paul Bazydlo  
Gary Brink  
Charley Bussey  
Caleb  
Bob Carey  
Gerald Carto  
Linda Chaney  
Elizabeth Corey  
Carl & Bonnie  
Cornprobst  
Lowell Cousino  
Marcus Demorest  
Caleb Dershem  
Ken & Miriam Dressel  
Elaine Esper  
Joe Evener  
Barbara Francis

**....Let us Pray for....**

Sheila Greisinger  
Pete Grundy  
Jeff Grycza  
J. Hall  
Gloria Hartman  
Nicole Hartman  
Diane Heidelberg  
Phyllis Heyse  
Sonya Hill  
Gene & Phyllis Hinkelman  
Fr. Jim Holup  
John  
M. Johnson  
Devin Kacher  
Bill Kniss  
Joanne Kolinski  
Jonah Kornberg  
RoseMarie Komorowski  
Earl Kramer  
Mary Laroy  
Patrick Lyndsay  
Sandy Maenle

Peg Mallin  
Bridget Marie  
Gary Martin  
Kevin Martin  
Elizabeth McChesney  
Jodi Miller  
Ruth Miller  
Bea Montri  
Kelly Reese Morgan  
Adelaide Munk  
Steve Murzynski  
C. Nikazy  
Nusbaum Family  
Ken Nusbaum  
Fran O'Connor  
Tyler Oehlers  
Austin Oehlers  
Armando Ortiz  
Karen & Tom Penney  
Dianne Petrilla  
Veronica Rakebrand  
Cliff Renn

Fr. Patrick Rohen  
John & Marge Scott  
Aaron Shreffler  
Patty Smith  
Cheryl Stanford  
Cheryl Stout  
Delores Thorn  
Jackie Tomaszewski  
Katie Tomaszewski  
Mark Tomaszewski  
Flossie Townsend  
Alicia Trejo  
Lily Tussey  
Murl Waidelich  
Christopher Warner  
Diane Webber  
Kristine Wells  
Mary Beth Wise  
Rick Wolneiwick  
Jim Woronec  
Dawn Wyse  
Charlie Yacuone  
Amy Yates  
Rita Zeller

**CHRISTMAS**



**What will you give to Christ this Christmas?**

*Come and pray with Him*

In the Most Blessed Sacrament.

He is constantly offering Himself to the Father in a spirit of adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition.

*Come and pray to Him*

He Himself is God and deserves the worship of adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition.

*Come and pray as you like*

- ♦ Recite your favorite prayers.
  - ♦ Contemplate acts of faith, hope, charity, adoration, thanksgiving, reparation,
  - ♦ Petition: obedience, humility, resignation...or whatever virtue appeals to you as you pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
  - ♦ Meditative reading
  - ♦ Offer your time before the Eucharistic Lord for a special intention.
- Cards are available at the Chapel entrance that may be filled out & sent to those we pray for.

# The Christmas Story

## According to St. Luke

In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph, too, went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

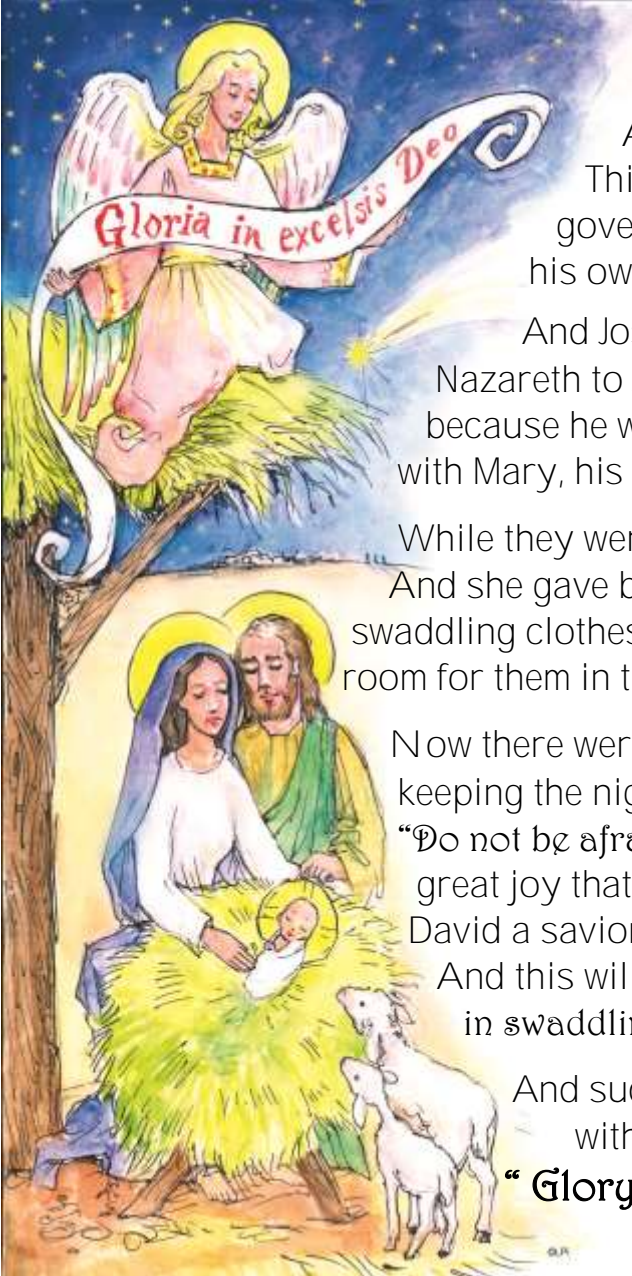
While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, And she gave birth to her first born son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
Peace to those on whom His favor rests."**



Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season.

We have lighted four candles these past four weeks  
and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends.

Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

**Let us pray...**

O God, you became human through the obedience  
of a simple young woman named Mary.

Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to Your word as Mary was.

Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to You.

We ask this through the incarnate God,

Who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.



***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"***

(Jn. 1:5).

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When the shepherds approached the stable, their hearts must have been filled with anticipation. These simple souls, in the midst of their typical duties of caring for the flocks, had been witnesses to a spectacular angelic announcement. *"Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Lk. 2:11). With memories of the sky being lit with the glory of the angelic choir still fresh in their minds, these simple working-class men hurried to greet the New Born King. Their zeal impelled them to seek the one that had been longed for through the centuries. As they knelt in adoration before the manger, allowing the awe of this simple and vulnerable newborn laying in the hay of a manger to fill their hearts with hope, did they hold any reservations about what the coming of the Christ might mean for their lives? Did they fear the changes that this promised coming might mean to the power structure, the divine worship of the temple, or the ruling structure of Israel?

The comparison between these simple shepherds and the rulers of Israel is stark. King Herod hears of the birth of the promised Christ and only sees a threat. Herod, being only half Israelite and relying on the support of the Roman Emperor for his power base, was historically paranoid and insecure. What would the birth of this "New David" this "Shoot of Jesse" mean to his reign other than a threat to his rule and his dynasty. Such a potential shift in power, any such change could not be tolerated even if the birth of this child was the fulfillment of prophecy and the will of God. The child was a threat and that threat must be dealt with using extreme measures.

The chief priests would only come to awareness of this child decades later. Nevertheless, their response to the preaching and works of our Blessed Lord was comparable to Herod's. 'This Nazarene is speaking of a new "Kingdom of God". His teachings are strange and challenging for us to hear. This is different and leading in a direction away from our expectations! Even questioning and challenging us as the authority in Israel! He must be silenced! He must be dealt with!'

I am very much aware of the concerns and fears many of us hold in our hearts about the future. The stability of what was and that which we treasure has become unstable. We are uncertain of what the months ahead will bring. We are fearful of letting go of the structures of faith and the communities that we cherish. We will tend to these issues. We will do what we are able to preserve our heritage. We will let our voices be heard. But this is the season of fulfillment! The Christ has been born! God has reached out to us poor sinners! His promises are eternal and ever reliable. Let us root within our hearts that the Emmanuel has come to us. With Him we can withstand any challenge or change the future may bring. Now is the time for Joy! The Almighty has not forgotten us!

Merry Christmas!  
God Love you,

Fr. Slaton

